

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

A die apparatus and method for performing a flashless forging operation to manufacture the toothed portion of a steering rack. The die apparatus ~~comprising~~ includes first and second die members and at least one punch member, each having a forming surface shaped substantially as the obverse of a portion ~~of said~~ of the toothed portion, ~~and at~~ At least a portion of the forming surface ~~of said~~ of the first die member ~~being~~ is shaped substantially as the obverse of the teeth ~~of said~~ of the rack. ~~Said first~~ The first and second die members ~~being~~ are moveable towards each other to a closed position, thereby partially ~~forging said~~ forging the toothed portion from a blank placed ~~in said~~ in the die apparatus, and forming a substantially closed cavity defined ~~by said~~ by the forming surfaces, ~~said~~ The punch member ~~being~~ is adapted to move into ~~said cavity, once~~ said the cavity once the die members are ~~in said~~ in the closed position, thereby completing said ~~forging the~~ forging operation.

Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure (Revised)